

Macomb County Health Department Pharmaceutical Collection







1B: Prom dresses are going shorter this spring

1C: Pistons mine Nuggets for big victory

The **Wednesday** Macomb Daily

SPORTS FINAL

March 19, 2008

MacombDaily.com 50¢



Macomb Daily staff photo by David N. Posavetz

Macomb County board Chairman Bill Crouchman gives his state of the County speech in Harrison Township.

Lake tops county agenda

Chairman's annual address focuses on alliance to clean up pollution

By Chad Selweski
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Macomb County board Chairman Bill Crouchman on Tuesday announced the formation of a "groundbreaking" group that will bring together officials on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border to work on fixing Lake St. Clair's pollution problems.

In his second annual State of

the County address, Crouchman said the newly created Lake St. Clair International Alliance represents a "firm commitment to the long-term health and welfare" of the lake.

"This will be a group comprised of municipal, county, state, (Native American) tribal, Canadian provincial and federal leadership, as well as other key stakeholders who border the

lake," Crouchman told a crowd of 300 people gathered at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township.

"The alliance will be a voluntary, cooperative forum for the sharing of data, regional storm water management planning and for the advancement of strategic goals."

The idea for the alliance grew out of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair, which is

expected to present numerous anti-pollution recommendations later this year. That group, a re-prise of a 1997 Blue Ribbon Commission, has drawn the participation of Macomb's neighboring counties and of numerous Canadian officials and environmental activists, including three members of the Canadian parliament.

Macomb County officials have complained for several years about the lack of communication between the Canadians and environmental authorities in Michigan. The alliance is expected to bridge that communication gap so that southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario work in

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Surface Water Sampling



Beach Sampling



Drain Walks



Facility Dye Testing





Pharmaceutical Collection



The **Monday** March 10, 2008 sports final Macomb Daily

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➤ **1C: Pistons finally solve Bulls**

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Drugs taint drinking water

Pharmaceuticals have been found in the drinking water of at least 41 million Americans.

AP photo



Studies show pharmaceuticals harm human, animal cell

The Associated Press

A vast array of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans, an Associated Press investigation shows.

To be sure, the concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny, measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. Also, utilities insist their water is safe.

But the presence of so many prescription drugs — and over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen and ibuprofen — in so

much of our drinking water is heightening worries among scientists of long-term consequences to human health.

In the course of a five-month inquiry AP discovered that drugs have been detected in the drinking water supplies of 24 million Americans.

See WATER, P. 1



Macomb Daily staff photo by David Dalton
Water to Go clerks Dave Cliburn and Kevin Kinney fill water jugs for Mark Gadley of Madison Heights.

Experts say: Keep drinking the water

■ Residents react to reports of drugs in drinking water.

By **Maryanne Kocis MacLeod**
 Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Local health experts, environmental groups and business owners are reacting to reports that an enormous range of pharmaceuticals, including sedatives, hormones and antibiotics — have been discovered

■ Large scale operations to clean water contaminated with trace amounts of pharmaceuticals will be expensive.

— PAGE 6A

in the drinking water supply nationally and in metro Detroit.

"We're all very surprised to find out how prevalent this is," said Dr. Marcus Zervos, division head of in-

fectious diseases at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

"The long-term effects of exposure are unknown and of concern," he added.

Zervos does not believe current water quality conditions pose an immediate health risk to humans.

"There's never been any research showing that there would be any possible damage to humans at all from being exposed to those levels of drugs in the short term," Zervos

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A JOURNAL REGISTER COMPANY NEWSPAPER

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WATER: Health department collects medications

Continued from Page 1A

said. "Keep drinking the water."

A survey of local businesses selling purified water indicated consumers had plenty of questions about drinking water quality and were already considering alternative sources.

"We've gotten all kinds of phone calls," said Gary Potapshyn, owner of Water to Go in Sterling Heights, which purifies its water through a 12-step process that includes reverse osmosis. "People are buying more containers and starting to drink better water. When they get educated, they come to us. Our water makes good sense and it

water. "I've seen the analyses and I know some of what's in tap water. It's disgusting. As people become more informed they will begin seeking other ways."

The Associated Press reported Monday that drugs were detected in the drinking water supplies of 24 major metropolitan areas — from Southern California to Northern New Jersey, from Detroit to Louisville, Ky., affecting an estimated 41 million Americans.

The concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny, measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. Utility

returned as of press time.

"The biggest threat is to wildlife, fish, plankton," Zervos said, adding that detection was made possible by the sensitivity of modern equipment.

Clean Water Action, a grassroots environmental group, called for more monitoring, pollution prevention and upgraded drinking and wastewater treatment technologies.

There are no federal or state standards or monitoring requirements for pharmaceuticals in drinking water or treated wastewater. Research indicates these chemicals are currently harming reptiles, fish and aquatic

LLC in St. Clair Shores, tap water includes 100 parts per million of TDS, or total dissolved solids. These can include chlorine, heavy metals and pharmaceuticals.

The seven-step, reverse osmosis filtration system that Chase uses strips water down to one part per million. Independent sources verify that reverse osmosis is effective in removing pharmaceuticals.

The Macomb County Health Department is doing its part to prevent pharmaceutical waste from entering the water supply.

In 2005 it established an unwanted medication collection

Expanded Household Hazardous Waste Collection



- Oil Filters
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Computer Components
- Mercury
- Pharmaceuticals

Pharmaceutical Collection



- Began March 2005
- Merged into HHW Collection
- Expanded to Satellite Collections
- Expanded into Daily Collection
- Occasional Controlled Substance Collection

Chapter 1: Mt. Clemens



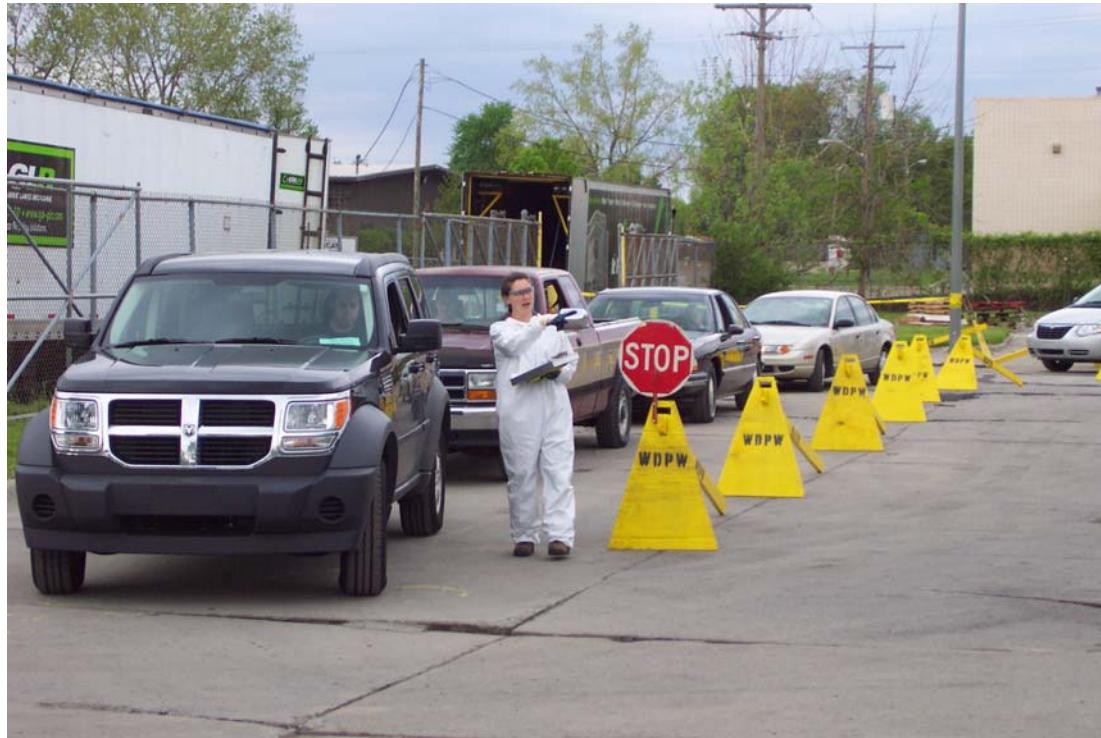
- Began accepting pharmaceuticals and PCP in Mt. Clemens
- Monthly basis

Chapter 2 : Expanded to Satellite Collections



- Set-up in Armada

City of Warren



- 600 cars in 5 Hours

Chapter 3: Expanded to Daily Collection



Receiving Pharmaceuticals



- No Controlled Substances
- Non-descript Container
- No Patient Information



Chapter 4: Controlled Substances



- Annual Older American Festival
- Cooperation of Macomb County Sheriff Department
- Senior “Shred-It” Days

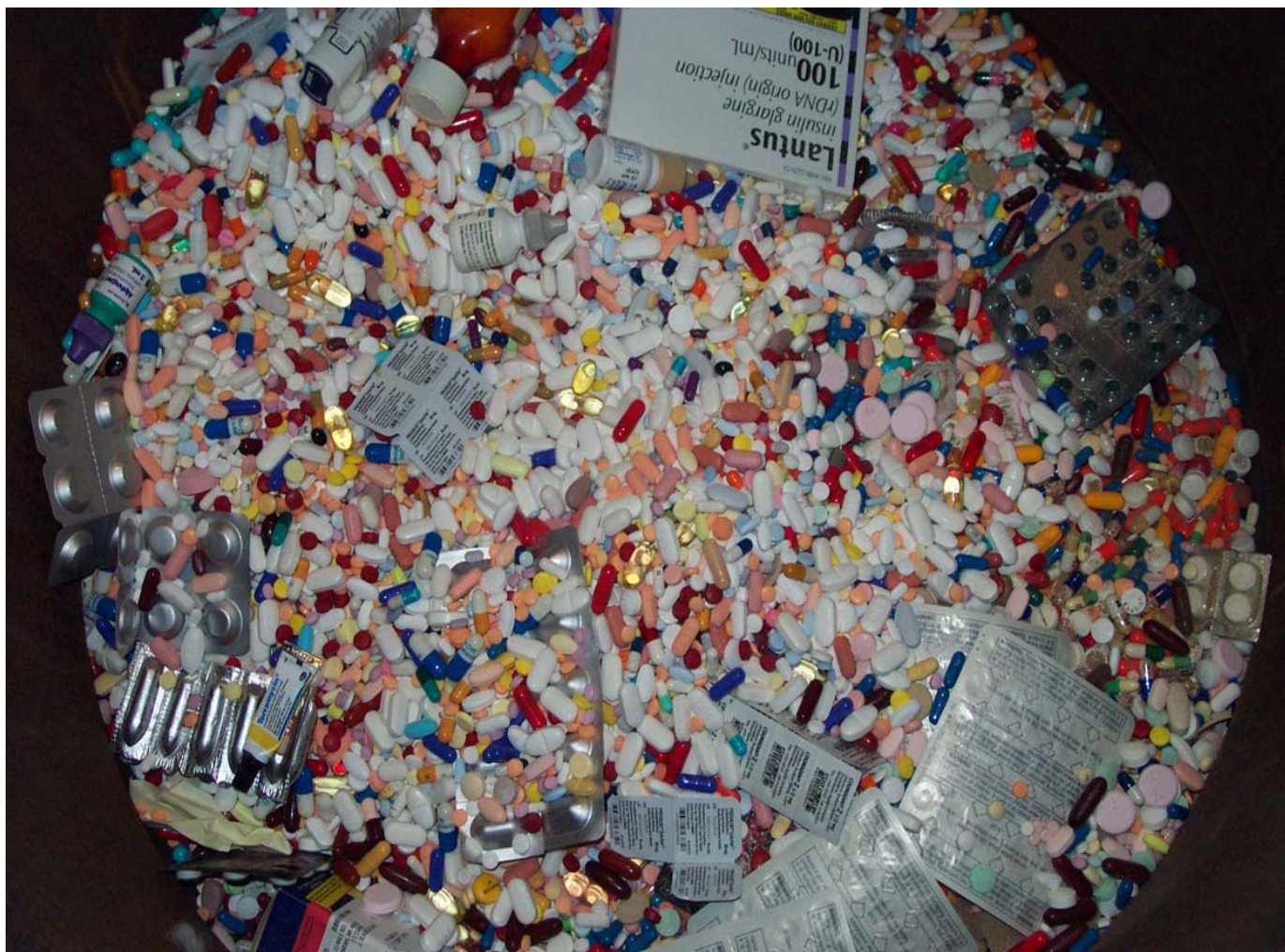


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Temporary Storage



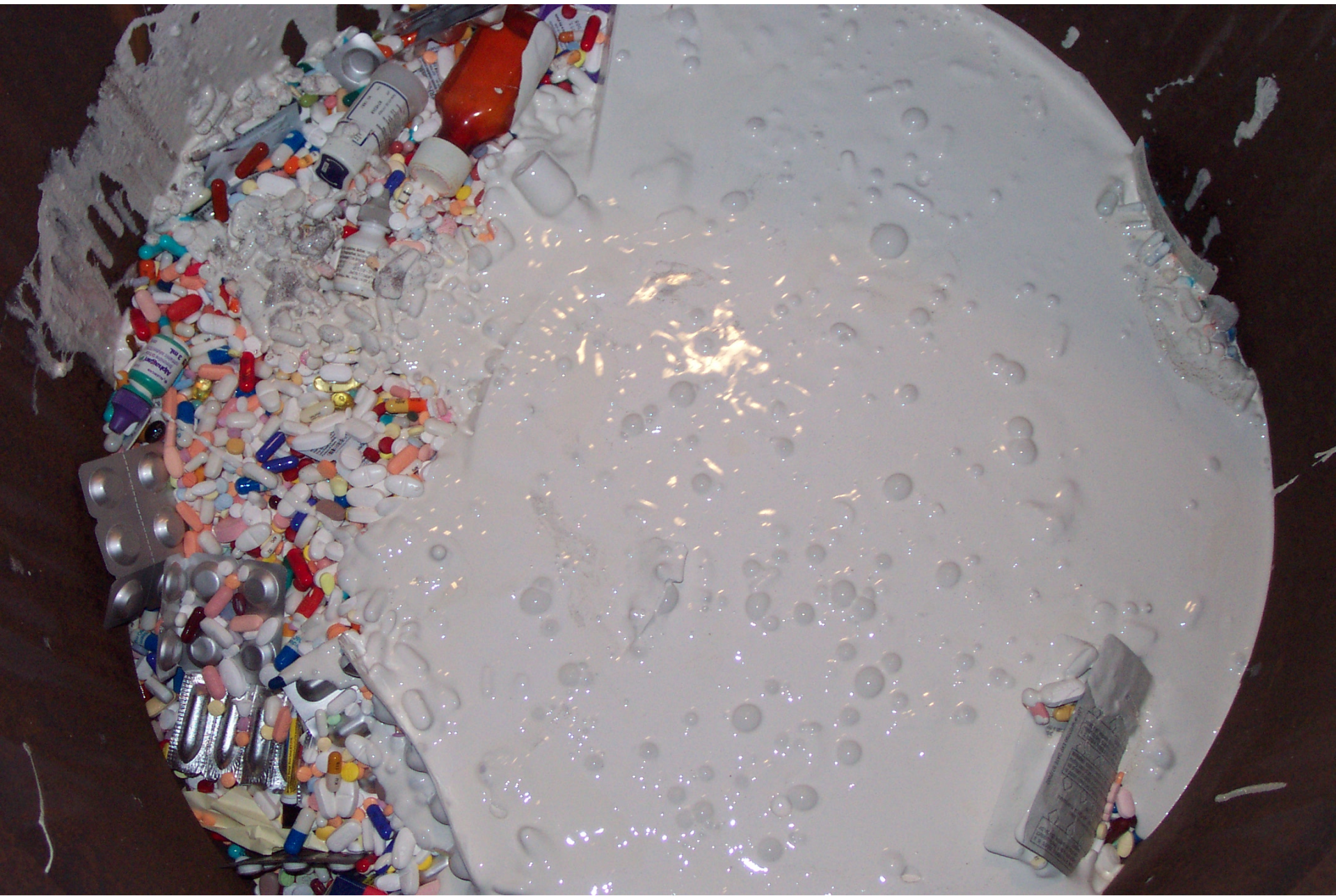
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JAN 24 2005

Mr. Gary R. White
Associate Director
Environmental Health Services Division
Macomb County Health Department
43525 Elizabeth
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

Dear Mr. White:

This is in response to your correspondence dated November 10, 2004. Your letter states that the Macomb County Health Department operates a Home Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program in which residents of the county can bring waste materials from their homes, such as motor oil, oil-based paint, pesticides and caustics, for proper disposal. The Macomb County Board of Commissioners has proposed that you begin collecting waste pharmaceuticals for disposal as a further service to residents. You specifically ask, is it acceptable to receive small amounts of controlled substance medications incidental to the collection of other (non-controlled) pharmaceuticals?

It is not acceptable to receive small amounts of controlled substance medications incidental to the collection of other (non-controlled) pharmaceuticals. Controlled substances may only be possessed by an entity that is either registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) or is specifically exempted from registration in accordance with 21 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 822(c), or by regulation as set forth in 21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1301.22 through 1301.25. Further, once a controlled substance is dispensed to the ultimate user, it is outside the "closed system" of distribution and cannot be returned to a registrant. Therefore, even if the HHW program sites were registered to possess controlled substances, they would not be authorized to take possession of controlled substances from non-registrants.

Your letter stated that you would use various methods (i.e., program flyers, web site, telephone information line) to inform program participants that controlled substances are not to be included in their waste material. It appears that you plan to implement adequate measures to inform program participants that controlled substances are not to be included in the disposal program. However, if controlled substances are inadvertently received by your facility, please contact your local DEA office or law enforcement agency for disposal instructions.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Opinion by Bob Eberhart

STRANGE. I FEEL
RELAXED AND YET
TURNED ON AT
THE SAME TIME!



Eberhart

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